



**United States Department of Justice  
United States Attorney's Office  
District of Minnesota**

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# **News Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Grand jury indicts 21 members of Minneapolis drug ring**

A federal grand jury in Minneapolis indicted 21 people on charges related to the possession and distribution of cocaine and crack cocaine.

United States Attorney Rachel K. Paulose, Special Agent in Charge Bernard J. Zapor of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and Minneapolis Police Chief Tim Dolan reported that the 68-count indictment, which was filed on Dec. 4, had been unsealed today following the arrest of 12 of the named defendants. Those arrests occurred Dec. 6 in several locations throughout south Minneapolis.

"This conspiracy involves a number of defendants from other areas causing damage to the safety of the Phillips neighborhood and other communities," Zapor said. "It has taken a significant commitment by a number of officers and special agents to stop this exploitation. We commend the Minneapolis Police Department for their commitment to the Violent Offender Task Force."

"The Minneapolis Police Department has very much benefitted from the joint working relations with the United States Attorney's Office and other Department of Justice agencies," Dolan said. "These arrests, when combined with the previous federal indictment of more than 30 serious violent offenders in Minneapolis during the past year, have made a significant impact on violent crime and the quality of life in our community."

Those charged with conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute cocaine and cocaine base (crack) were: Timothy Karrem Randle, 27, Crystal; Ennis Orlando Fitzgerald, 32, Minneapolis; Detrick Darnell Jiles, 24, Minneapolis; Joe Louis Hall, 29, Minneapolis; Lapreace Domineac Edwards, 22, Minneapolis; Marco Orlando Tinnin, 30, Minneapolis; Kenny Davenport, 31, Brooklyn Center; Tobias Tdyes Davenport, 28, Brooklyn Center; Michelle Dawn Peterson, 39, Prior Lake; John Thomas Olson, 34, Hopkins; Tonney Jermal Randle, 24, Minneapolis; Danta Franks, 23, Minneapolis; Linsey Leroy Harmon, 42, Hibbing; Daryl Gerard Bacon, 31, Minneapolis; Darrel Robinson, 46, Minneapolis; Richard Knight, 44, Minneapolis; Thomas Albert Keopke, 40, Woodbury; Jeanette Shelton, 51, Minneapolis; Patricia Ann Morgan, 44, Minneapolis; Caroline Keri Boswell, 34, Minneapolis; and Reid Matthew Schneider, 49, Minneapolis.

Twelve of the 21 were taken into custody Dec. 6. They are: Bacon, Boswell, Edwards, Knight, Koepke, Olson, Peterson, Timothy Randle, Tonney Randle, Robinson, Schneider and Tinnin. Nine remain at large, including Kenny Davenport, Tobias Davenport, Fitzgerald, Franks, Harmon, Hill, Jiles, Morgan and Shelton. If you have any information regarding their whereabouts, contact Minneapolis police at 612-692-TIPS (8477).

The indictment alleges that from Oct. 9, 2007 through Dec. 3, 2007, the 21 knowingly and intentionally conspired with each other and with others to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 50 or more grams of a substance containing crack cocaine. Cocaine is a powerfully addictive stimulant that directly affects the brain, and crack cocaine is the free-base form of the drug. This form comes in a rock crystal that can be heated and its vapors smoked. The term "crack" refers to the crackling sound heard when it is heated.

Fourteen individuals were charged with distribution of cocaine base. Tinnin has 58 counts; Olson has 36 counts; Timothy Randle has 30 counts; Tonney Randle has eight counts; Jiles has six counts; Bacon has five counts; Fitzgerald, Peterson and Tobias Davenport each have four counts; Robinson has three counts; Edwards has two counts; and Franks, Harmon and Kenny Davenport each have one count.

The indictment alleges that the 14 knowingly and intentionally distributed substances containing crack cocaine, ranging from 2 to 63 grams, on various dates in October and November 2007. Both Olson and Tinnin were also charged with one count of cocaine distribution, as the indictment alleges that both distributed approximately 300 grams of cocaine on Nov. 26, 2007.

Hall was also charged with one count of felon in possession of a firearm. The indictment alleges that on Nov. 1, 2007, Hall knowingly possessed a .32-caliber revolver. Hall was previously convicted of a felony in Hennepin County in 1999. Fitzgerald, Hall, Jiles and Timothy Randle were each charged with one count of aiding and abetting in the possession of a firearm during a drug trafficking crime in connection with the Nov. 1 incident.

Boswell, Knight, Koepke, Morgan, Schneider and Shelton were each charged with one count of use of communication facility in furtherance of drug trafficking crime. The indictment alleges that the six knowingly and unlawfully used a communication facility in connection with various drug trafficking crimes on various dates in October 2007.

If convicted on the conspiracy count, the 21 each face a potential maximum penalty of life in prison. Those charged with distribution counts each face a potential maximum penalty of 40 years on each count; those charged with use of communication facility each face a potential maximum penalty of four years; those charged with aiding and abetting in the possession of a firearm each face a five-year minimum mandatory sentence; and Hall faces a potential maximum penalty of 10 years on the firearm possession charge.

All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the ATF, the Minneapolis Police Department's Third Precinct and the Minneapolis Police Department Violent Offenders Task Force, with assistance from the U.S.

Marshals Service, the Minnesota Gang Strike Force and the police departments of Crystal, Hopkins, Maplewood, New Hope and Shakopee. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Leshia Lee-Dixon.

“These arrests, and this indictment, highlight the cooperative partnership of federal and local law enforcement to remove drug trafficking off of Minnesota’s streets,” Paulose said. “We commend the efforts of these agencies in this endeavor, and look forward to future joint ventures to improve the neighborhoods of Minneapolis or in any Minnesota city.”

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by the defendant. The defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.